

referred to as F64L-GFP), F64L-Y66H-GFP (SEQ ID NO: 16, hereinafter referred to as F64L-Y66H-GFP) and F64L-S65T-GFP (SEQ ID NO: 20, hereinafter referred to as F64L-S65T-GFP) that result in a cellular fluorescence far exceeding the cellular fluorescence from cells expressing the parent proteins, i.e. GFP (SEQ ID NO: 22, hereinafter referred to as GFP), the blue variant Y66H-GFP and the S65T-GFP variant, respectively. This greatly improves the usefulness of fluorescent proteins in studying cellular functions in living cells.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 19, 27, 33 and 34 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP) polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:22 with the exception that a Leu residue is substituted for the Phe residue at position 64 of SEQ ID NO:22.